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NEW HOME?

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WELCOME TO METRO.US

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMONS

You might not be inspired to start roasting your chestnuts on an open fire yet, or whatever, but the holiday season is in full swing. And what better way to celebrate than with a pop culture gift guide? On page 22, we're bringing together the best gifts for TV lovers, film fanatics and pop culture aficionados alike. Read on for more or visit [metro.us](#).



JERUSALEM RECOGNIZED AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

1 President Donald Trump abruptly reversed decades of U.S. policy on Wednesday and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, generating outrage from Palestinians and defying warnings of unrest in the Middle East. Drawing praise from Israel, Trump said in a speech from the White House that his administration would begin a process of moving the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a step expected

to take years and one that his predecessors avoided so as not to inflame tensions. The status of Jerusalem — home to sites holy to the Muslim, Jewish and Christian religions — is one of the thorniest obstacles to reaching a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. The international community does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the entire city, believing its status should be resolved in negotiations.

AL FRANKEN'S FUTURE IN SENATE UNCERTAIN

2 Half of Democrats in the U.S. Senate called for fellow party member Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota to resign after new allegations of sexual misconduct against him. Franken, who had said he planned to remain in office, said on Twitter he would make an announcement on Thursday. He offered no further details. The calls from the 23 senators marked the first time that Franken's Democratic

colleagues had publicly pressed for him to step down since the allegations began nearly three weeks ago. They were joined by the party's chairman, Tom Perez. Another Democratic senator, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, has privately pressed Franken to step aside, a spokeswoman said. "I've struggled with this decision because he's been a good senator and I consider him a friend," Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii.

SCUBA SANTA

3 A diver disguised as Santa Claus feeds the reef inhabitants in the Tropical Ocean Basin at the Sea Life in Munich, southern Germany on Wednesday.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



FIRES FORCE EVACUATION IN EXCLUSIVE LA AREA

4 California wildfires raged into an affluent Los Angeles neighborhood, forcing evacuations, threatening multibillion-dollar homes and temporarily shutting a major highway. The new fire also threatened the hilltop campus of one of the world's richest museums, even as more than 1,000 firefighters in nearby Ventura County battled the biggest of the wind-fed blazes, which threatened more than 12,000 homes. A brush

fire erupted overnight and quickly spread, creating an alarming spectacle for pre-dawn commuters on the hillsides east of Interstate 405 before the California Highway Patrol closed the heavily traveled freeway. The Skirball Fire, the newest of several brush fires that have sprung up in Southern California since Monday, prompted officials to order residents of the hilly, wooded area west of the Bel Air neighborhood out of their homes.

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO AVAILABLE ON APPLE TV

5 Amazon.com Inc. and Apple Inc. have partnered to bring the Amazon Prime Video app to Apple TV in over 100 countries, the companies said on Wednesday. The news comes a day after Alphabet Inc.'s Google said it would block its video streaming application YouTube from two of Amazon's devices and criticized the online retailer for not selling Google hardware. Apple's Chief Execu-

tive Tim Cook had said in June that Amazon's streaming service would be available on Apple devices later this year. Apple TV, a device for watching television over the internet, would also start featuring live sports this week, Apple said in a blogpost on Wednesday. The announcement follows a negotiation stretching back at least to 2015 when Amazon stopped selling Apple TVs on its retail site.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017



As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting [metro.us/magic](#), clicking on the toy wish-list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.



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"Thérèse Dreaming" by Balthus has sparked controversy in light of the climate of sexual assault and harassment reports. GETTY IMAGES

Met painting of young girl in a 'suggestive pose' sparks controversy

An online petition is calling on the museum to remove or contextualize the painting.



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A painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art has come under scrutiny for depicting a young girl in a "sexually suggestive pose," with thousands of people signing an online petition asking for the artwork's removal from the museum.

"Thérèse Dreaming" by Balthus, painted in 1938, depicts a "pubescent model lost in thought," according to the Met's website. The girl sits with her hands behind her head, her one foot up on the chair, which causes her skirt to fall back and reveal her underwear.

More than 9,600 people have signed an online petition asking the museum to remove the painting from display. The petition describes the piece as an "evocative portrait," with the petition creator specifically writing that, "It is disturbing that the Met would proudly display such an image."

"The artist of this painting, Balthus, had a

noted infatuation with pubescent girls," Mia Merrill, the petition creator, wrote on the Care2 petition site, "and it can be strongly argued that this painting romanticizes the sexualization of a child."

That romanticization is especially problematic, Merrill continues, in the light of recent sexual-assault reports and allegations. Specifically, the allegations against Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, who is accused of initiating a sexual encounter with a 14-year-old when he was 31, come to mind.

When the Met hosted the exhibit "Balthus: Cats and Girls — Paintings and Provocations" in 2013, an article in the Guardian noted Balthus' "inordinate fixation on girls who'd just hit puberty."

As Merrill notes in the petition, the Guardian article then reads:

"The Met, not imprudently, has put a plaque at the start of the show that reads: 'Some of the paintings in this exhibition may be disturbing to some visitors.' Only some visitors? They should disturb us all."

Merrill has come under some criticism herself by those who say she is "censoring" art. In an update posted Tuesday,

she added that she is not asking for the painting to be censored or destroyed, but for "the Met to be more conscientious in how they contextualize pieces."

"This can be accomplished by either removing the piece from this gallery or by providing more context in the painting's description," she continued. "I would consider this petition a success if the Met included a message as brief as, 'Some viewers find this piece offensive or disturbing, given Balthus' artistic infatuation with young girls.'"

The Met says it will not remove the image. In a statement, museum spokesman Ken Weine pointed to the Met's mission to "collect, study, conserve and present significant works of art across all times and cultures in order to connect people to creativity, knowledge, and ideas."

"Moments such as this provide an opportunity for conversation," he continued, "and visual art is one of the most significant means we have for reflecting on both the past and the present and encouraging the continuing evolution of existing culture through informed discussion and respect for creative expression."



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The latest digital disruption: Real Estate

WRITTEN BY
Amy Smith



No one likes to pay extra fees or surcharges for little added benefit. An extra dollar to use your credit card at the deli? Bologna. A "resort" tax to use your hotel's swimming pool? Doesn't hold water. So why do we accept a going rate to buy or sell a home that's 6% ... straight into the pocket of someone who does little more than to show up with the keys ... on the biggest financial decision we'll make in our lives? Thankfully we no longer have to.

Meet Your New Broker—A Bot

Automation is both creepy and convenient. We may think our phones are spying on us when activity such as shopping history results in an uncanny, specific ad showing up on our Facebook feed. But when that ad is relevant, it's kind of the best thing ever. And as we get dumber, artificial intelligence (AI) optimizes and improves its capability of personalizing the data it serves. So, it's not a giant leap to think that your next dream home can be served up to your screen as easily as a tacky sweater the week before your office holiday party.

Meet REX Real Estate — an agency that uses data to put the right house in front of the right buyer. Accompanied by a 2% fee, REX is able to save homeowners \$25,000 on average.

Co-founded by CEO Jack Ryan and powered by Andy Barkett and his team of AI pros, REX utilizes technology that knows you a little better than you know yourself. For example, if your shopping list suddenly shows a double-up of diaper purchases, they get the whiff that your family may be growing (and you might be looking for a larger home). Started investing in a college fund? You might be interested in a similar commute from a house in the state's best school district. Sold your car and stopped purchasing that monthly commuter train ticket? Maybe a downsized condo in the city's up your alley. REX uses all of the public data you willingly (if unknowingly) share to target ads for homes directly to you. Thus providing the buyer exclusively with homes relevant to their needs.

But How?

Traditional agents set up open houses and hope for potential buyers to walk in and sign on the dotted line. Now, with the benefit of AI and rich data, REX is able to show your property off in digital ads that constantly refine themselves. Sure, you may be looking for a three-bedroom in a certain price bracket, but you need to know immediately if a four-bedroom with a rock star kitchen is available one street outside of your search parameters. AI will find a way to reach you - be it on Facebook, or whichever real estate sites you're already searching.

"We create efficiencies so that a home owner has more money in their pocket by finding the right buyer or seller using data, and so we only need to charge 2% to get the job done," says Ryan.



But I'm A People Person

There are still some bodies as well as bots on hand to grease the wheels, deliver paperwork and oversee home inspections. It's simply the behind-the-scenes work that's handed over to AI to streamline the process. "It's interesting to read the comments we get from our users," says Ryan. "Some of them say the low-touch personal aspect was the best part of the process, and others compare it to using Turbo Tax to sort the

headache of April 15 by doing it with a few keystrokes."

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#MeToo rally offers comfort, solidarity and unity to sexual assault victims

"I want everyone to feel that sense of not being alone, that we're survivors," said Annmarie Haubert, co-organizer of Saturday's rally.



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The #MeToo movement has united countless victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment across the globe. Here in New

York, it brought together two women from very different backgrounds to not only bond over surviving assault, but to also encourage others to join them as well via Saturday's #MeToo rally in Times Square.

The rally is spearheaded by Annmarie Haubert, 24, and Connie Vasquez, 57, an EMT instructor and lawyer, respectively, who connected online after the Me Too movement first created by activist Tarana Burke 10 years ago ignited

in October after actress Alyssa Milano urged women to use it as a hashtag to show how common sexual harassment and sexual assault are.

"I knew that a lot of people went through it, but out of my friend group, I really was the only one, and it made me feel very alone," Haubert told Metro. "When I saw [#MeToo] gaining momentum and people were so brave to speak about their experiences, it made me feel like I could open up, too."

In recent years, Haubert has opened up more about her experiences being groped, sexually assaulted and raped in her teens, but "with the momentum that this movement has brought, I've gained the courage to speak about it in public, on my Facebook and Twitter and let people know this is not OK," she said.

Haubert and Vasquez will be among the speakers at Saturday's #MeToo rally, which runs from 1-4 p.m. They will be joined by Sonia Ossoria, president of NOW-NYC; Elizabeth Cronise McLaughlin, women's leadership coach and host of "#ResistanceLive"; Jamia Wilson, executive director of Feminist Press; therapist Betty Teng; Gary Greenberg, founder of Protect NY Kids; singer/songwriter Mae Krell; Aryn Quinn, founder of EndAbuse4Good and Farrah Tanis, co-founder and executive director of Black Women's Blueprint, Inc.

Saturday's rally, which was moved from Co-

lumbus Circle to Duffy Square, in the northern triangle of Times Square between 46th and 47th streets, aims to give victims a chance to be heard and seen — and to stop the cycle of blaming those who have been sexually assaulted or sexually harassed.

"There is so, so much victim blaming. And it really gets to me," Haubert said. "It's something I've dealt with personally from people who, at that point, I considered friends. They blamed me, what I was wearing, what I was saying and what I was doing."

Haubert hopes that rally attendees are able to bond with each other the way she and Vasquez, with whom she had an emotional and "powerful" first in-person meeting with on Friday, did.

"I definitely want there to be this feeling of comfort and solidarity, that almost overwhelming feeling of 'I'm not alone,'" she said. "I want everyone to feel that sense of not being alone, that we're survivors."

"I definitely want there to be this feeling of comfort and solidarity, that almost overwhelming feeling of 'I'm not alone.'"

Annmarie Haubert

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"When I saw [#MeToo] gaining momentum and people were so brave to speak about their experiences, it made me feel like I could open up, too," said Annmarie Haubert. PROVIDED

Time magazine names the #MeToo 'silence breakers' as Person of the Year

The publication spotlighted the women who shared stories about sexual harassment and abuse through the #MeToo campaign.

Time magazine has named the social movement aimed at raising awareness about sexual harassment and assault, epitomized by the #MeToo social-media hashtag, as the most influential "person" in 2017, the publication announced Wednesday.

"This is the fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage by hundreds of women — and some men, too — who came forward to

tell their own stories," Time Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal told NBC News, referring to them as "the silence breakers."

The recognition comes amid a wave of public allegations of sexual misconduct that have targeted some of the most prominent men in U.S. politics, media and entertainment, leading to multiple firings and investigations.

As more people made their accusations public, other individuals shared their own stories of assault and harassment, often with posts on social media platforms using the hashtag #MeToo.

"I could never had envisioned something that would change the world. I was trying to change my community,"

"This is the fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage."

Edward Felsenthal



Time's recognition of #MeToo comes amid allegations of sexual misconduct against many prominent men in politics, media and entertainment. TIME INC. VIA INSTAGRAM

Tarana Burke, who created the hashtag, told NBC. "This is just the start. It's not just a moment, it's a movement. Now the work really begins."

President Donald Trump, who was Time's

person of the year in 2016, was the first runner-up this year, followed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Felsenthal said.

Other finalists included U.S. Department of Justice Special Coun-

sel-Robert Mueller, who is leading the investigation of alleged Russian meddling in the election that Trump won; North Korean President Kim Jong Un; "Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins; and football

player-turned-activist Colin Kaepernick.

Time's annual distinction recognizes the person, group, thing or idea that it has determined had the greatest influence on events for the year. REUTERS

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...the Pain Is More Like A Prison

And for generations, knee arthritis has given good, hard working people a life sentence of pain and suffering. To make things worse, slick marketers only add to the pain by promising wonder cures. Late night television and your mail box are filled with "wonder arthritis cures" that make wild claims and sound too good to be true . . . **Because They Are**

Nothing is worse than getting your hopes up - spending your hard earned money - only to be let down time after time.

It is easy to give up...

But while marketers were peddling "wonder cures," real doctors and researchers were hard at work trying to discover a real medical solution. Modern medicine eradicated small pox and polio. Through laser eye surgery, doctors can give almost blind people perfect 20/20 vision. The potential cures on the horizon with breakthroughs like stem cell and regenerative therapies are endless.

Solve The Riddle Of Arthritis Pain?

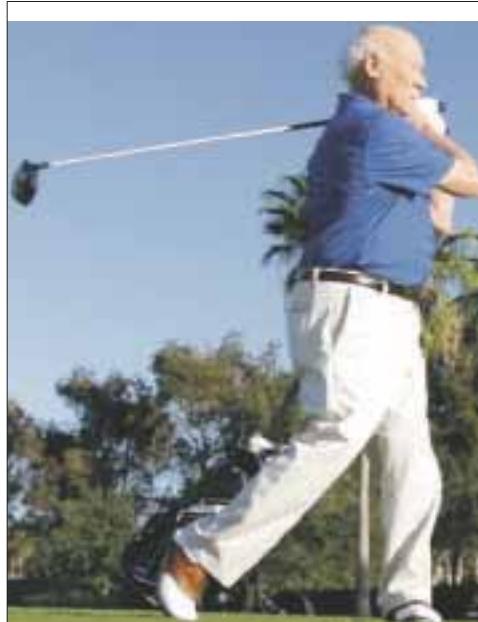
For the past 3 years, that's exactly what a medical clinic in New York City has been doing. The **NYC Pain MD** doctors have been able to help thousands of knee arthritis sufferers with cutting-edge treatments and technology older generations could only dream about. One of these treatments in particular has helped thousands of patients ease or eliminate pain and go back to doing their favorite activities like: walking, playing golf, tennis and many more. The treatment is called viscosupplementation. *But wait.* This is NOT the typical viscosupplementation. So if you are one of the many knee arthritis sufferers who already had viscosupplementation and did not get great results - what you are about to discover should be very important, to you in particular. It might even get you out of pain.

Here is why: During viscosupplementation, a special lubricating gel is put directly into your arthritic knee joint. This not only helps the knee joint to glide more smoothly, it acts as a cushion, protects the joint, and relieves a lot of pain. This is often referred to as "joint oil." In many cases, when done properly, this can dramatically lessen knee pain for up to 6 months and much longer in many cases.

And even better - if this treatment works for you the first time - it can be safely repeated when necessary and the results are often better for some.

Like Threading A Needle?

The key to this treatment being successful is actually getting the special lubricating gel directly into the joint where it can go to work. That's why the doctors at **NYC Pain MD** use very advanced digital imaging that allows them to see directly into the joint and make sure the lubricating gel "hits the spot" and the treatment has the best odds for success. Studies show that doctors doing these types of procedures without this special imaging actually miss the joint space up to one third of the time!



"I've had trouble with my knee walking. I'm a golfer and want to play golf but I couldn't. I made the call and went and it's the best thing I ever did. It's just – now I can play golf, I can walk, I can climb stairs, I can do things I did many years ago".

"It's the smartest thing ever did" "Since I've been going for the treatment for my knees I don't take any pills, I take not over the counter medication.."

"This a good alternative to surgery." "I am so glad I went. I'm so confident I feel so good about it and I recommend It to everybody." William La Spina . Golf Enthusiast

(While **NYC Pain MD** cannot say all patients will respond like this we can say they are possible. Every patient is individual and results will vary, patient to patient.)

Why Treatment Can Fail

This is why viscosupplementation can fail for some people. It is also why many knee arthritis sufferers come to **NYC Pain MD** after failed treatments elsewhere... and are finally able to get relief. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hours for the advanced treatments given at **NYC Pain MD**.

Patients Should Be Assured About Precision Treatments

ONE BIG MISTAKE we have heard about is to use digital imaging or ultra-sound to mark the knee and then shut off the imagining and then not use it during the treatment procedure!!! **This means the doctor did not actually see if the lubricating gel went exactly where it was intended.** The only way to know for sure if the procedure was as accurate as possible - and the lubricating gel went precisely into the joint space - is to use the digital imaging **during the entire procedure.** You can actually see the lubricating gel as it goes where it is needed. If you did not actually see it on the imaging screen - you do not know for sure if you actually got the proper treatment applied to the damaged area.

If you have already had this procedure without this advanced imaging... Or if it was not used throughout the procedure, there is a good chance you did not get the maximum results you could and should have received.

"Clearly, technology is only as good as doctors using it ... and clearly experience matters"

That's why, if you need heart surgery, you go to a heart surgeon... Not a general practitioner. At **NYC Pain MD** you will be seen by doctors who are specially trained in this procedure... Do it every day... and see thousands of patients every year. The latest technology combined with experienced and skilled doctors gets the best results possible. You will not be treated by a nurse or physician's assistant ...but always by a highly trained doctor

Who Is This Treatment For?

This treatment is not for everyone. But it is for a lot of people who suffer with knee arthritis. Especially if you would like to avoid total knee replacement surgery and possibly lessen or eliminate your pain. This treatment

Treatments Their Parents Could Only Dream About

Knee Arthritis Sufferers Throughout The Tri-State Area Get Back On Their Feet

may help you if you have knee pain due to arthritis. It may also help you if you do not have dramatic signs of arthritis on x-ray. Studies show that arthritis is present long before it can be seen on x-ray. In fact, the sooner you start this treatment the better. So, if you have knee pain - seeing one of the specially trained medical doctors at **NYC Pain MD** could be the answer you are looking for. **This is important - this is especially for you if you have had viscosupplementation in the past without good results.**

Many patients who did not have good results elsewhere are often able to get a very favorable results because of the advance technology and procedure experience at **NYC Pain MD**

In fact some patients have decided to cancel knee surgery and others go back to a active lifestyle they had before it was stolen by all the pain.

How to Find Out If They Experts At NYC Pain MD Can Help You

If you have knee arthritis pain and would like to see if this treatment might help you - the experts at **NYC Pain MD** offer a complimentary screening appointment.

This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for treatment and also gives you a chance to get your questions answered.

If you are a candidate, you will leave knowing that you found the possible way to lessen or even eliminate your knee pain for 6 months or more for many patients.

There is no obligation and if you are not a candidate - the doctor will help you find the best doctors and treatments for your individual case and refer you to the proper sources. To set up a complimentary screening, just call **800-298-8610**

The NYC Pain MD 'X' Factor ? ... Reduced Cost, Time And Stress

NYC Pain MD is a high-tech medical facility equipped with all the necessary equipment to treat appropriate candidates right in its own in-office procedure suites. What does this mean for you? It means no stressful hospital, no intimidating surgical center or out patient facility visits. Your experience is far more relaxing with personalized attention. This also means you don't have to be "Rich and Famous" because by avoiding all those "fancy" facilities you don't have to bear their severe costs which can be several times the cost of the treatments themselves.



The Secret To Knee Pain Relief? With advances in medial science and technology the doctors at **NYC Pain MD** have been able to help thousands relieve their pain and get their active lifestyle back.

How To Get A No-Cost Screening & Find Out If This Knee Arthritis Treatment Is For You

The popularity of this treatment is startling. **NYC Pain MD** receives hundreds of patients calls weekly... patients looking for options other than surgery that really work. But because this is a real medical treatment - it is not for everyone. That's why the experts have setup an easy screening visit.. This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for additional examination

and treatment. This screening is offered at no cost to the patient. All your questions answered and you will find out if this treatment is for you. Zero risk or obligation. Just call **800-298-8610**. Tell them, "I would like the knee screening." They will take care of everything. Due to demand, spots are limited - call immediately to avoid unnecessary waiting. The number to call is: **800-298-8610**

The secret to success: Technology with Caring Doctors: NYC Pain MD combines cutting edge technology with highly trained professional and caring staff to help knee arthritis sufferers.

To set up a complimentary screening, just call **800-298-8610**. But if you want a screening, we recommend calling right now. Due to time limitations, the center can only offer a limited number of screening per month. They decided to limit the number because they believe in the giving every patient the individual time they deserve.

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Metro's wish lists include toys for infants through pre-teenaged children. NIC CZARNECKI

Tony's Metro Magic toy drive is in full swing

Metro makes it easy to donate with quick links to toy wish lists at [Metro.us/magic](#).



MORGAN ROUSSEAU
[@metromorgan](#)
morgan@metro.us

There is still time to donate to Metro's annual toy drive by visiting [metro.us/magic](#) and ordering through our secure Target wish lists.

The annual toy drive, dubbed Tony's Metro

Magic, helps underprivileged children in your community.

Gifts range from under \$5 and up. Toys are delivered to our Metro offices in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia through Dec. 15, then distributed to local charities that serve underprivileged children in those cities.

For those donating in New York, toys will go to the Coalition for the Homeless, then distributed to local children. Boston's Heading Home Inc. will receive the toys for that city, and Philadelphia's toys will go to the Institute for the Development of African-American Youth (IDAAY).

If you wish to donate, you can choose the toys, pay online, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be automatically delivered. The wish lists include toys for infants through pre-teenagers.

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the toy drive, which is named after Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-serving editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf oversaw the project for more than

four years before passing away in 2013.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts, and it's our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen. "I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro is grateful for the toys already received at our offices. They're stacked in the newsroom, and each day the pile grows. We thank readers in advance for remembering the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have presents to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

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This year marks the eighth anniversary of Metro's annual holiday toy drive.
NIC CZARNECKI



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NYC Health+Hospitals Queens 82-68 164 th Street Queens December 15, January 12 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM <i>Auditorium</i>	NYC Health+Hospitals Elmhurst 79-01 Broadway Queens December 15, January 19 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM <i>Room A1-22</i>	MetroPlus Queens Community Office 92-14 Roosevelt Avenue Queens December 8, January 26 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM <i>Conference Room</i>
MetroPlus Brooklyn Community Office 2221 Church Avenue Brooklyn December 15 & 16 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM <i>Conference Room</i>	NYC Health+Hospitals Coney Island 2601 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn December 19, January 28 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM <i>Room 1N65</i>	East New York D&TC 2094 Pitkin Avenue Brooklyn January 12 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM <i>Basement Conference Room</i>

For detailed location information
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Joseph Ponte left the DOC in June after three years at its helm. GETTY IMAGES

Scott Stringer cancels \$24K vacation payout for ex-DOC head

City Comptroller Scott Stringer put the kibosh on paying Joseph Ponte vacation compensation amid improper city vehicle use inquiry.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
@NikkiMMascali
nikki.mascali@metro.us

When former New York City Department of Correction Commissioner Joseph Ponte stepped down in June on the heels of several scandals, he left with a bank of unused vacation time worth \$24,000.

On Tuesday, City Comptroller Scott Stringer tightened the city's purse strings in regard to paying out Ponte's 27 unused vacation days in anticipation of further investigation into his alleged improper use of city vehicles, The New York Times reported.

"While unused vacation days are typically paid out following separation of service from the city, we will wait for the outcome of any existing or future investigations," Stringer's communications director Devon Puglia said.

Ponte left the DOC in June after three years at

its helm — and just weeks after the Department of Investigation released a report indicating that he had driven a city vehicle 18,500 miles last year to and from Maine, where he had, until this past March, owned a vacation home in Wiscasset.

The report also found inappropriate vehicle use by 20 other DOC staff, including newly appointed Commissioner Cynthia Brann, who were subjected to disciplinary measures that included mileage reimbursement and forfeiting days off.

Ponte, whose mileage was considered income, made a partial reimbursement payment, Natalie Grybauskas, a spokeswoman for Mayor Bill de Blasio, told the Times.

Puglia said that "additional Conflicts of Interest Board or DOI inquiries into this situation" could occur "and those outcomes could ultimately result in fines against Mr. Ponte."

A DOI report from April discovered that Ponte had been out of state for 90 days in 2016, 35 of which were workdays. During that time, 27 inmate slashings, three correction officer slashings and the death of an on-duty staffer occurred, the DOI said.

POLITICS

Gay man to run against Kentucky clerk who denied him marriage license

A gay man who was denied a marriage license in Kentucky two years ago by a county clerk who refused to issue licenses for same-sex marriages will run to unseat her next year, he said on Wednesday.

David Ermold, of Morehead, Kentucky, announced his candidacy as a Democrat against Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis, who drew worldwide attention when she refused to grant the licenses to same-sex couples, citing Apostolic Christian beliefs.

"We need to restore the integrity of that office," Ermold said in a phone interview with Reuters after his campaign announcement on Facebook. "I wasn't treated fairly myself."

Davis, who said last month she would run for re-election in 2018, could not be reached to comment. Her attorney at Liberty Counsel also could not be reached.

Davis spent five days in jail in September 2015 after refusing a court order to issue marriage licenses following the Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage. REUTERS

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The department that could predict and prevent next recession has budget slashed

The agency's director, Richard Berner, announced his departure a month ago.

LENYON WHITAKER
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

President Donald Trump reportedly will cut staff and make significant budget changes to the Office of Financial Research — the agency responsible for predicting when financial markets could crash or when the country is about to go into a recession.

According to The Wall Street Journal, top officials at the Treasury Department informed employees of the Office of Financial Research on Nov. 30 about the Trump administration's plan to make significant changes to OFR.

While it's not clear how the cuts are struc-

tured or how many people are being let go, Trump announced his initial plans to make significant changes to the OFR's budget in May, announcing it would reduce the office's budget by 25 percent and cut a third of its staff.

The office falls under the Treasury Department but is independently funded and spends about \$100 million a year, according to The Wall Street Journal.

If Trump moves forward and makes significant cuts to the Office of Financial Research, one of the questions he will need to answer is if there will be enough manpower left to effectively provide adequate financial analysis and information to prepare for a financial market crash or recession.

The Office of Financial Research's Director Richard Berner was appointed as the office's director in 2013. Although his con-

tract expires in 2019, he announced in November his plans to leave by the end of the year without much reason for his departure.

"After six years of commuting between Washington, D.C., and my home in

New York, I have decided that it is time for me to go home to my wife and enjoy time with our grandchildren who have graced our family since I came to D.C.," Berner said in a statement in November.

Despite his plans to

leave his position, he believes the agency will still function properly despite Trump's cuts. In the OFR's annual report, Berner says he's certain the department will maintain its "objectivity, integrity and quality."

The Office of Financial Research was established during the Obama administration in 2010 after the country suffered from a financial crisis beginning in 2008 which sent the country into the Great Recession.



Donald Trump reportedly plans to make significant budget changes to the Office of Financial Research. GETTY IMAGES

GUN RIGHTS

Bill letting people bring concealed guns across state lines passes House

People would be able to bring legal, concealed guns into any U.S. state under legislation the House of Representatives approved on Wednesday that would also bolster the national background check system and require a study of the "bump stocks" used in October's Las Vegas mass shooting.

The country's long-standing fight over gun ownership has grown more heated since a single person killed 58 people and injured more than 500 at a music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, the deadliest mass shooting carried out by an individual in U.S. history.

On a vote of 231 to 198, the

Republican-led House approved the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would require states to recognize each other's permits for carrying hidden and loaded firearms while in public.

States' requirements on concealed guns vary widely. Some states deny permits to people who have committed domestic violence or other crimes. Eight do not require permits at all.

Detractors say the bill tramples states' rights and that gun permits differ from drivers' licenses, which are generally uniform across the country. They also say that, under the legislation, gun owners will only have to abide by requirements of the most lenient states.

REUTERS

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GOP tax bill will kill 10,000 people a year, says economist Larry Summers

About 10,000 Americans will die from lack of health insurance each year if the GOP tax bill goes into effect, said Larry Summers, the former treasury secretary under President Clinton and White House economic adviser to President Obama, on Monday, while other economists say the tax-cut plan will make it harder to fight the next recession.

The GOP tax bill, which was voted on by the Senate last Friday and now must be reconciled with the House version, eliminates Obamacare's individual mandate requiring people to buy insurance. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that would cause 13 million people to lose insurance by pushing up premiums and destabilizing state exchanges. "I think this bill is very dangerous," said Summers on CNBC's "Squawk



Larry Summers, the former treasury secretary under President Clinton and White House economic adviser to President Obama. GETTY IMAGES

Box." "When people lose health insurance, they're less likely to get preventive care, they're more likely to defer health care they need, and, ultimately, they're more likely to die."

Summers estimated the death toll in an op-ed for the Washington Post, citing studies by the Urban Institute and Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. One study showed that 1 in 176 people who lose

health insurance will die because of it; another put the number at 1 in 830. To be conservative, Summers set the number at 1 in 1,000, arriving at 10,000 deaths per year.

Some economists say the GOP tax plan will hobble the country's ability to cope with the next recession. By cutting the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent and eliminating the estate tax and alternative minimum tax, the bill would increase the federal deficit about \$1 trillion a year. The economy is growing the fastest it has in three years, and the workforce is at essentially full employment. "We should be paying down the debt now, so if we have a war or recession and we need to use tax cuts or increase government spending, we're in a position to do so," said David Kelly, chief global strategist at JPMorgan Funds. MICHAEL MARTIN

The FIRST EVER Anti-Viral Clinical Trial for Alzheimer's Disease

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Cats take the spotlight

While most films feature live cats, Gus the Cat is a surreal romp. **ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED**

The first Cat Film Festival explores an animal whose charms are deeper than GIFs and silly memes.

 **EVA KIS**
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Cats have already won the battle for the internet's heart and even made headway in the film world recently with "Kedi" and "Keanu." And this weekend, they be the stars of the first-ever New York Cat Film Festival.

Taking place Saturday, Dec. 9, at the SVA Theatre in Chelsea, the festival is

in response to "countless requests" to Tracie Hotchner, founder of the Radio Pet Lady Network and curator of the Dog Film Festival, which returns for its third year Dec. 10.

"I think the Cat Film Festival may put the Dog Film Festival to shame in terms of enthusiasm and turnout because people who love cats live in a kind of secret, private world," explains Hotchner, with the festival providing a rare chance "to come out and celebrate with other like-minded cat people."

And if you think you know cats from viral GIFs and YouTube clips, think

again. "There's something shaming about them that has to do with mockery," Hotchner notes. "You're capturing your animal in a moment of doing something silly or adorable, but you haven't set out to make a movie with intention and to tell a story, even if it's just a minute long [as one of the films is]."

The Cat Film Festival is made up of two blocks of short films exploring the personal connection between cats and humans, whether their owners or just ones passing by who care about them. Curated by Hotchner, the films are meant to explore "how

cats fit into our lives and how we make that relationship better — or worse."



The festival is split into two parts, each just over an hour long, filled with both humorous and heartfelt moments.

In "Nobody Owns a Cat," you'll meet a professional cat groomer, see how a preschool teacher and her cat spend winter break and experience a "visual poem" about the life of a cat in Tuscany. The main film is a 56-minute overview of how cats came to live alongside humans — and the ones who refuse to be tamed.

Prepare for serious warts in the festival's second portion, "Little Works of Art." ("Don't worry, even the sad stories have happy endings when Hotchner is involved!)

There's a filmmaker's personal story about how her devoted cat consoled

things to do

If you go

Cat Film Festival
Dec. 9, 3-6 p.m.
SVA Theatre
333 W. 23rd St.
\$15 per session
catfilmfestival.com

her through depression, a documentary about the rich life of a disabled cat, and the title film that explores the American Museum of the House Cat in North Carolina.

"There are so many surprises," she says. "There is no easy answer to some of the movies."

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

POP-UP

Relax, Dammit

Blue Point Brewing is bringing the beach vibes of its Long Island home to the city for three days with a pop-up "travel agency." Step into up to the desk and get your free ticket to its hidden surf shack on the Lower East Side with free beer tastings, an underwater lounge with live oyster shucking, a relaxation pod and live entertainment. Dec. 6-9, 4 p.m.-10 p.m., 156 Orchard St., free, facebook.com/BluePointBrewery

THEATER

"Counting Sheep"

Ever wonder if you'd be brave enough to really stand up for what you believe in? Get a taste of rebellion with "Counting Sheep," an immersive theater piece at 3LD Theater in the Financial District.

The "guerrilla folk opera" takes you inside the 2014 Maidan Revolution in the Ukraine, using reenactments and actual footage from Kiev. Audiences aren't passive; they're invited to yell, throw bricks, sing protest songs and dodge armed soldiers. Through Dec. 17, 3LD Theater, 80 Greenwich St., \$49.50-\$69.50, countingsheeprevolution.com

MOVIES

"So Long, Boulder City"

The most divisive debate this country faced in 2016? Hands down, it was if you loved or hated "La La Land." Whether you swooned for the Hollywood fantasy or tried to get your money back, you must have been wondering: What was so bad about Emma Stone's character's one-woman show that it crashed her career and sent her spiraling on her doomed (or

destined) trajectory to stardom? The musical spoof "So Long Boulder City" imagines what it would've been like, in its awful entirety. Dec. 7-Jan. 7, Subculture Theater, 45 Bleecker St., \$36-\$46, solongbouldercity.com

BENEFIT

Dance

Extraordinary There's still time to cram some culture into 2017 without breaking the bank. Dance and fashion come together in a site-specific event at Artists & Fleas SoHo this Thursday. For \$25, you'll enjoy music and dancing, shopping, a silent auction, drinks and light bites, plus immersive installations and five performances. The party supports Bryn Cohn & Artist's upcoming season. Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., Artists & Fleas SoHo, 568 Broadway, \$25, bryncohnartists.com

MUSIC

Luke Bryan

Samsung 837 is a multilevel interactive event space that's been decked out for the holidays. This week, it hosts a free performance by country superstar Luke Bryan. Just RSVP to attend. While you're there, check out The Night Before, a 4-D virtual-reality experience in which you ride in Santa's sleigh, or take a 360-degree selfie inside a snow globe. There's also interactive holiday windows and Christmas stories playing in the living room. Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Samsung 837, 837 Washington St., Free with RSVP, samsung.com

HOLIDAYS

Coney Island Winter Wonderland

Over the coming two weekends,

FILM

there's holiday-themed family fun down by the seaside with the Coney Island Winter Wonderland. Stroll through the market and shop for unique gifts, get a photo with Santa at the "Nightmare Before Christmas"-themed Arts Annex, enjoy a performance of "The Tin Soldiers Christmas Toys" with yo-yo pro Just Weber or attend the Holiday Laser Light Show. Dec. 9-10 & 16-17, Coney Island USA, 1208 Surf Ave., Free, \$12, coneyisland.com

There are two afternoon showings, each featuring a different set of films. Dec. 10, 2:45 and 4:45 p.m., SVA Theatre, 333 W. 23rd St., \$15, dogfilmfestival.com

POETRY

The Poetry Brothel: Holiday Party

Don your corset or whatever puts you in the mood for a kinky, boozy poetry reading inside a bordello. Characters who slink around the shadows or drape themselves across chaises will spontaneously recite poems as you explore a seductive brothel featuring aerialists, palm readers, burlesque and private performances. This month's party takes on a seasonal theme with caroling and an "office holiday party" photocopier onstage. Dec. 10, 8 p.m.-Midnight, House of Yes, 2 Wyckoff Ave., Brooklyn, \$40-\$75, houseofyes.org T. Michelle Murphy



SantaCon is the best

Why we're celebrating instead of dreading the annual tradition.



EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

It's almost time for the annual long drunken day that is SantaCon, when hundreds of Claus-clad boozers crawl their way through the city's bars. And we couldn't be more excited.

What's there to cheer about hundreds of Santas, naughty elves and romping reindeer roaming the streets of New York City? Everything!

Ditch the real world
Instead of the apocalyptic hellscape that 2017 has been, SantaCon is a chance to turn a few blocks into the North Pole for one special Saturday (this year it's Dec. 9). It's a world of nothing but happy Santas, naughty elves and romping reindeer having a party across welcoming bars — Santa never drops in unannounced.

Supporting local businesses

The gifts we're maxing out our credit cards to buy this time of year may come from workshops worldwide, but SantaCon supports local businesses. There's nothing in it for our usual capitalist overlords, either: no corporate-sponsored nonsense, and the money you spend is invested directly in your own happiness.

A whole day of socializing

When's the last time you met someone who wasn't a friend or a friend or co-worker? SantaCon is a whole day of having fun with new people without the usual social barriers and awkward small talk, because everyone is just as jolly to be there as you — especially freelancers who don't have at least one guaranteed holiday party in an office to look forward to.

You're spreading holiday cheer to people in need

SantaCon isn't just about making your season

bright. The event has been a charitable non-profit event since 2012, and has donated more than \$300,000 to local charities since it started. And in the spirit of Father Christmas, donating just \$10 gets you not just warm fuzzies inside but priority entrance to the SantaCon afterparty (which is also an incentive to pace your cheer).

Tradition is all we'll have left of Christmas soon

Just as fall didn't really happen so much as sulk around like a teenager and occasionally douse us in rain between heat-waves, we can't expect more of winter. The only sign we have that Christmas is nearly upon us is pop-up holiday bars and the annual march of the Santas through the streets. Once we've global warmed our way out of winter completely, the only reminder of seasonal cheer will be our traditions — and a group of Santas on a bar crawl beats the jingle bells out of being visited by skeletal horses.

Are You Shy?

- Do you get anxious in front of others?
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- Do you avoid meeting new people, going to parties, or dating?
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If so, you may be suffering from Social Anxiety Disorder. If you are between 18 and 64 years of age, and feel that these problems interfere with your ability to achieve your goals or to enjoy life fully, you may be eligible for our research study of an investigational medication for Social Anxiety symptoms. Please call or text for more information.

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NOVEMBER 14, 2017
INTEGREVIEW

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Cut-out for a cut-up •••

You've probably seen these at the 2017 weddings, bat/bar mitzvahs and reunions you've attended, and if there was an open bar we're sure you enjoyed the prop. So why not customize a cut-out for your friend to make every occasion a special one? The border is printed on plastic sign material and clocks in at 28" by 40" (fitting three-four people). \$60 on [SocialCutOuts.Etsy.com](#)



Coffee class •••

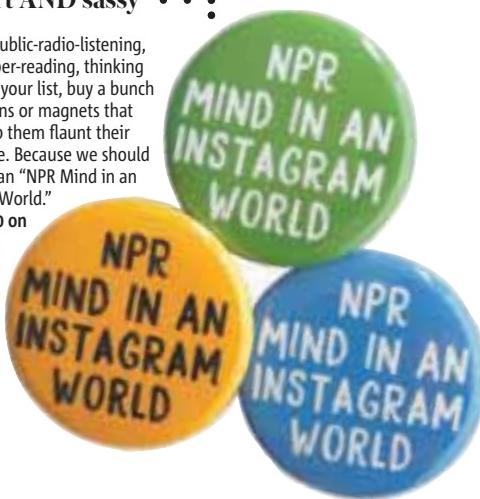
It can be taken as a little bit cheeky, but a coffee mug that declares your gift-ee as Instafamous will surely go down like a caffeine hit. \$13.95 on [Etsy.com](#), [TheMugLyfe](#)

Stick it to 'em •••

Give your digital shutterbug the chance to print out 16 of their favorite (and "most liked") pics and turn them into sticker art. Perfect for the fridge, the desk, lockers and even their precious electronic devices, there's the added bonus of knowing this company plants a tree for every order shipped. \$29.99 for 16 on [PaperCulture.com](#)

Smart AND sassy •••

For the public-radio-listening, newspaper-reading, thinking people on your list, buy a bunch of buttons or magnets that will help them flaunt their intelligence. Because we should all have an "NPR Mind in an Instagram World." From \$2.50 on [Etsy.com](#), [ThePixel-Prince](#)



Book smarts •••

Social-media mavens aren't born with a billion followers (unless they're the latest Kardashian) — likes are learned. So "Read This If You Want To Be Instagram Famous" is the perfect book for the budding brand ambassador in your life. It includes advice from thought leaders, info on codes of conduct and some inspirational imagery. \$12.99 on [UrbanOutfitters.com](#)



Snap that •••

Although your giftee lives in the digital domain, allow them access to something tangible. The Fujifilm Instax Mini set includes a whole raft of goodies, including a selfie lens, camera bag and, most important, the ability to print out the best of those Instas. \$19.99 on [Amazon.com](#)

• Case the joint



Every snapper needs to clasp a case on their precious phone, lest they suffer the tragedy of a cracked screen. But rather than the generic black plastic model, get a custom case featuring your favorite pic. Choose matte or glossy treatments, and the option of backgrounds or overlaying text ("Call your mother!" with a family shot might not be subtle, but will hopefully get the job done). From \$44.99 on [Shutterfly.com](#)



Bling thing •••

Carrie adored her name necklace back in the day on "Sex and the City," but if she were around this December she'd no doubt update her jewelry with an @ symbol. Customize a solid sterling silver piece on a choice of lengths of chain and your bud will have her calling card immortalized. \$39.99 on [Etsy.com](#), [RonLiDesigns](#)



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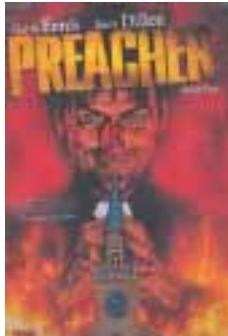
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Pop culture gift guide



9 of the best presents for TV lovers, film fanatics and music aficionados. **RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMONS**



VERTIGO



TARGET

1 Preacher, Book One

For those who love "Preacher" but can't wait until the next season, may we suggest the gift of the very lewd, endlessly entertaining source material?

\$16, Amazon



URBAN OUTFITTERS

2 Honeymoon Hotel Rapper's Delight Art Print

A high-quality art print emblazoned with some of the most famous hip-hop lyrics of all time? Yes please.

\$19 - \$399, Urban Outfitters



KIMOJI.COM

3 KKW Crazy Face iPhone Case

For the loved one in your life who can't get enough of the Kardashians — and their eager willingness to be meme'd.

\$28, Kimoji



NINTENDO

5 Hand of the King Bottle Opener

Considering we may not get the final season of "Game of Thrones" until 2019, this is the closest you can get to Westeros for now.

HBO, \$15



6 Oprah 2020 Mug

Because right about now, everyone could use a dash of hope with their morning brew. You get a mug, you get a mug, YOU get a mug!

\$17, Fishs Eddy



FISHS EDDY

7 Super NES Classic Edition

Nostalgia never goes out of style and the Super NES Classic Edition is right on time. How can you pass up the chance to play the simple games of your youth?

\$80, GameStop

8 Steve Harrington T-Shirt

For the friend — and "Stranger Things" obsessive — longing for a Steve Harrington season two in the streets, Steve Harrington season one in the sheets.

\$20, Zerobriant on Etsy



A CHART ABOUT NOTHING



POP CHART LAB

9 The Connected Characters of Seinfeld

An oldie but goodie, this "Chart About Nothing" connects all of the characters from "Seinfeld", from recurring ones like Newman to one-offs (Man Hands, anyone?)

\$36, Pop Chart Lab

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7 gifts of wellness

For the health- and fitness-conscious, or at least someone who aspires to be, these picks will help make 2018 a more active and energized year.

KATE MOONEY



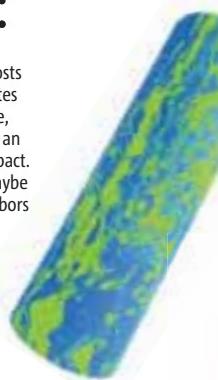
Jump rope

It's the perfect stocking stuffer and it costs less than a bespoke cocktail. Ten minutes of skips burns 125 calories on average, which is roughly equivalent to running an eight-minute mile, except this is low-impact. And you can do it anywhere! (Except maybe not in your apartment if you have neighbors below you.) \$10, Amazon.com.



• • • Kombucha homebrew kit

For your friend who has been talking about brewing her own kombucha and getting her gut right but never makes it happen, this affordable kit is basically kombucha for dummies. It has everything a first-time brewer would need, including a SCOBY culture and liquid starter, a glass brew jar and most important, instructions! Kombuchabrooklyn.com, \$35.



S'well water bottle

Friends don't let friends stay dehydrated. So you can't always get your pals laid but you can help them quench their literal thirst. A 17 oz. S'well bottle is sleek and stylin', made of temperature-controlled stainless steel and it's good for the environment. swellbottle.com, \$25.



• • • Bluetooth clip-on speaker

Pimp your pal's bike ride with this sea-green Bluetooth speaker she can clip right on her clothes to serenade her as she cruises the neighborhood.

Unlike headphones, this speaker will pump the tunes without completely drowning out the noise of traffic, making it a safer bet. Hollar.com, \$8.50

Subscription to Headspace app

For your friend who needs to get into a better, well, headsace, this popular mindfulness meditation app features daily 10-minute exercises guided by founder Andy Puddicombe (in his soothing British voice). New users start with 10 free sessions, but continuing requires a monthly subscription. \$7.99/month, headspace.com



• • • Verilux light-therapy lamp

If your friend loathes the winter and suspects she might have seasonal affective disorder, treat him to this Verilux light-therapy lamp. It emits 5,000 lux, which is considered medium intensity and it has a recommended use of 45-60 minutes a day. Best of all, it's portable and only 1.5 pounds, so she can slip it in her purse and whip it out anywhere — say, at her desk at work when she's feeling blue. \$32, amazon.com



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Adopt a kid's Xmas wish list with USPS Operation Santa

The national gift-giving program for families in need is the best way to do your holiday shopping.



KATE MOONEY
@yatinybrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Shopping for gifts has to be one of the most stressful parts of the holidays. What are you ever supposed to get your dad? How do you balance making the holidays memorable for your kid and not spoiling her? What's a suitable gift for the boyfriend you're planning to break up with in the new year?

What if, this year, you quit focusing your efforts

on shopping for friends, fam, frenemies, etc., and instead buy for people who know what they want and will actually appreciate it?

With USPS Operation Santa, you can "adopt" a letter to Santa and answer a wish list for a family or kid in need. It's straight-forward, you don't have to think about what to get and as Santa's anonymous helper, you're taking yourself out of the equation. (Just don't blow the cover like Liz Lemon in that "30 Rock" ep.)

Here's how it works: Visit delivercheer.com, where you can peruse handwritten letters to Santa from kids and families. Select the letter that you want to adopt

and USPS will email it to you along with a letter ID. You can decide to purchase some or all of the gifts on the wish list, or simply write a response — signed "Santa," or course. You can adopt the letters as an individual or act as an official Santa ambassador and organize group adoptions — say, as a team of friends or colleagues.

When you're ready, bring your stamped and addressed letter and/or package of gifts, labeled with your letter ID on the top left, along with a completed adopter form, photo ID and address to your local participating post office. In NYC, that's the James A. Farley Post Office in midtown.

If you or someone you



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Gifts for *commuters*

If your giftee is always on the go, we've found the best picks for their day packs.

Plane, train and automobile journeys are never fun (especially first thing on a Monday morning), so spoil the straphanger in your life with one of these Metro faves. **JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL**



• • • • Bag it

The North Face Resistor Charged Backpack doesn't just hold everything you'll need for the day, but it also packs a punch of juice for your hand-held devices (3.5x a full cellphone battery). It features a removable, water-resistant battery pack; a padded, fleece-lined tablet pocket; a phone cozy; a 13" laptop compartment and still has room for last night's leftovers or gym shoes for lunch hour.

From \$138.95 on Zappos.com



• • • • Hear It

Earbuds are out — now that we're in scarf season (and living in 2017) there's no need to hassle with cords. There are plenty of wireless headphones on the market at varying price points, but if you're going to opt for the best, look no further than Bose. Their QuietComfort 35 Wireless Headphones make the most of today's Bluetooth technology and aren't just noise-cancelling and able to handle your calls, texts and tunes — they have Google Assistant built in. "Google, is my train running late AGAIN?" Actually, you don't need these to know the answer is always "yes."

\$299.95 on Bose.com



• • • • Eat it

Sure, lunch boxes were way more fun when they had cartoon characters on the outside (not to mention on the Thermos). But if it's time to find a practical present, the Rubbermaid LunchBlox Sandwich Kit's both affordable and awesome. It includes modular containers that snap together, including a blue ice freezer pack that can keep chosen compartments chilly. They're microwave, dishwasher and freezer safe, and don't have any of those nasty BPAs.

\$5.85 on Amazon



• • • • Learn it

Podcasts and music are a great way to unplug while you're plugged in, but why not take the opportunity to catch up on some hands-free reading? Audio books are a great way to make it through a page-turner without ever having to remove your gloves. And with titles that appeal to TV nuts (like "Big Little Lies" and "The Handmaid's Tale"), political junkies (of all stars and stripes, from Obama's books to "Let Trump Be Trump") and kids (or kids at heart, with all 93 or so of the Harry Potter tomes), there's something for everyone.

\$45 for a three-month gift subscription to Audible.com



• • • • Juice It

Not ready to pony up for a bag with charging capabilities? Grab this pocket-size external battery and flashlight for a fraction of the cost, and say goodbye to flat phones (and anxiety-laden journeys with no Candy Crush). The Jack Bar holds 6000mAh, whatever that means (about two full phone charges, if we're to be a bit more specific) and looks great.

\$17.99 on Amazon.com

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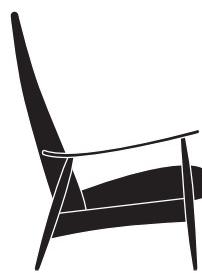
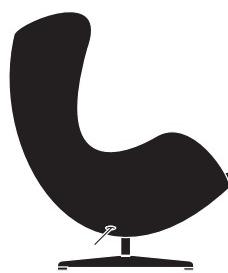
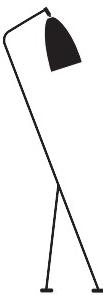
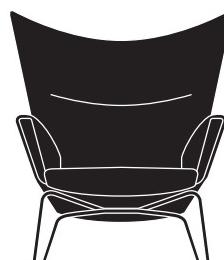
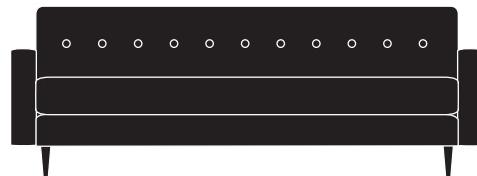
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Give the gift of *education* this holiday season



Gooroo's Scott Lee with his staff. GOOROO.

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Small decorative icons representing gifts or presents.

Small decorative icons representing gifts or presents.

Now is the time of year that most people are freaking out and scrambling to find the perfect gifts for the holiday season. Sure, you could give some expensive gadget that will just be outdated

by next season. But what about giving the gift of education or learning a skill that they can use forever?

The innovative tutoring company Gooroo is changing how people connect with educators to get help on learning a wide variety of topics. With subjects ranging from SAT prep for high school students to learning a new language, the company has a massive staff of around 2,000 tutors (mainly in New York, New Jersey and Boston) who have all been selected through a rigorous verification process to help you learn. In order to be selected, each tutor must not only have exceptional teaching methods and experience they will have had to score within the top 2% of their respective test subjects. So no mat-

ter what, you know that you will be learning from the best.

The company allows you to search for a tutor in your specific field of interest on their site (or app) and lets you compare different rates while providing background information on each tutor. Once you have found the right person for the job, you can schedule lessons either face to face at home, in public spaces, or (in some cases) anywhere you choose through Skype.

Gooroo founder and CEO Scott Lee believes that no one is ever finished learning, and that is the reason why he started this company. After immigrating to the United States from Korea at age 15, Lee relied on the help and support of educators to get ahead. Now, you could say he is

returning the favor.

"We believe in life-long learning," says Lee. "Our vision has always been sharing our talents and gaining a few more. We are not just limiting ourselves to tutoring. We wanted to be a platform that can be a one-stop shop for global learning."

Since it was founded two years ago, the company has grown at an extremely rapid pace and is now the official tutoring vendor of the New York Department of Education (DOE). The DOE was so impressed with Gooroo's teaching platform that they even adopted some of their methods into their curriculum.

Lee is also happy to announce that Gooroo will now be providing tutoring services to senior citizens. Other than the more typical subjects,

this program will be helping seniors to learn how to navigate social media and other skills that will help them become a little more tech savvy in their golden years.

So if you are having a hard time finding gifts this holiday season, consider checking out Gooroo's bundle packages. Just think about how much your friends and family would appreciate getting on track to mastering a subject in school, learning an instrument or becoming fluent in a new language!

After all, those stocking stuffers will be long forgotten this time next year. But giving the gift of learning a new skill will last a lifetime.

Find a tutor and learn more about pricing over at gooroo.com.



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URBAN ELEGANCE

When you get home, relax with the new CITY barware collection from Orrefors. The CITY collection consists of crystal glass barware and stainless steel accessories that embodies modern Scandinavian design. Inspired by city lights, the cuts on the surface create a bold and masculine, yet elegant and refined feeling.

CITY barware collection can be found at Bloomingdales, other fine retailers and www.orrefors.us

CITY DESIGN MARTTI RYTKÖNEN

Highball, Old Fashioned, Double Old Fashioned 4-p \$60 | Ice Cubes stainless steel 4-p \$30

Ho ho ho holiday bars

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Donner & Blitzen's Reindeer Lounge



Ginger Toddy at Winter Room at The Roof



Ski Chalet at Haven Rooftop

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EVA KIS
@thiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Donner and Blitzen's Reindeer Lounge

Everyone has a side hustle these days, and Santa's reindeer are no different. Donner and Blitzen's Reindeer Lounge is a living room-style pop-up with couches, quilts and no fewer than three fireplaces (with stockings hung by the chimney, of course). Behind the bar is Sarah Boisjoli, formerly of Estela, shaking up cocktails like Rudolph's So Bitter (Campari, vodka, raspberry cordial) to go with a menu of grilled cheese sandwiches. *Through Jan. 1, 197 E. Third St., East Village*

Jingle Hell's

For a bar that claims to be anti-Christmas, there's an awful lot of holiday kitch inside this Lower East Side pop-up bar, only around through Dec. 10. Sure, the heads of Santa's reindeer are mounted on the wall and the fireplace has been boarded up so

Santa can't get in, but there's gobs of garlands, ornaments, lights and a festive cocktail list (\$13, your first is free before 7 p.m.) Resistance to Christmas is futile. *Through Dec. 10, 174 Orchard St.*

Sippin' Santa's Surf Shack

Before Santa pulls his epic all-nighter, he needs some me time on a beach. Your island paradise awaits at Sippin' Santa's Surf Shack, a "boisterous and frivolous" urban beach complete with palm trees wrapped in twinkle lights and Polynesian cocktails crafted by cocktail experts from Chicago (who know how to warm you up) and New Orleans (who know how to keep a party going). *Mele Kalikimaka! Through Dec. 24, Boilermaker, 13 First Ave., East Village*

Holiday Garden

No need to head indoors for the season — Midnights in Williamsburg has tented its patio and strung up the twinkle lights, decked its Christmas tree and turned up its holiday tunes. Another bonus: Pumpkin Spice Lattes never go out of season here. *Through March 2018, 149 N. Sixth St., Brooklyn*

Holiday Cocktail Factory

Think Willy Wonka, but with vodka drinks. LOCL Bar at the NYLO Hotel has gotten a Chocolate Factory makeover with giant lollipops, candy-cane handrails and mushroom seats upon which to sip fun cocktails that turn your mouth blue (The Violette, of course) or come inside a gumball. Next door is a Champagne Bubble Room bursting with bubble-themed decor, while the hotel's library has been converted into a sweets shop. *Through Jan. 31, 2178 Broadway, Upper West Side*

The Lodge at STK

The Meatpacking District now has its own rooftop apres-ski destination in The Lodge at STK. The indoor-outdoor "urban cabin" has plenty of cozy touches like faux fur throws and candles inside, while on the patio there's a Christmas tree and even a bed to cuddle up on. *STK Downtown, 26 Little West 12th St.*

Sleyenda

Cobble Hill's excellent Leyenda is tipping its Santa hat to Latin ladies who sleigh (get it?) by transforming into Sleyen-

da. Fusing the Day of the Dead with Christmas, the bar's wallpaper has been replaced with wrapping paper, shelves heave with holiday kitch and the fireplace is ready for Santa to arrive. Sip on Mexican hot chocolate spiked with Mezcal, a classic coquito (Puerto Rican eggnog) and other festive drinks. *Through Dec. 24, 221 Smith St., Brooklyn*

Ski Chalet at Haven Rooftop

It's snowing indoors at Haven Rooftop, where giant snowflakes hang from the ceiling of its heated main room among antler chandeliers and plenty of twinkling lights. Share a fondue alongside seasonal cocktails like the Ginger Toddy, or warm up the whole crew fast with a Shot-ski. *Sanctuary Hotel, 132 W. 47th St., Times Square*

The Lodge at Gallow Green

You could hardly imagine a less likely getaway in the city than a cabin in the woods, but that's what you'll find on the roof of the McKittrick Hotel. Gallow Green undergoes a seasonal transformation from a

secret garden into a cozy lodge for winter, with real pine trees, a working fire pit and a snug cabin with a library room (if you can score a reservation). Share small plates and pizzas over seasonal cocktails available in samovars for groups. *The McKittrick Hotel, 530 W. 27th St.*



Sleyenda

Winter White Wonderland

If Elsa from Frozen could design a rooftop bar, this enchanted ski lodge would be it. The Good Story bar always changes with the seasons, and for December they've built a ski lodge under two tents on the patio, where visitors can snuggle up under blankets. Every item on Harold Moore's special food and drink menu is white, like a coconut cake Sno Ball and grilled cheese sandwiches, with cocktails like build-your-own eggnog and frozen white hot chocolate. *231 Hudson St.*

Winter Room at The Roof

A champagne parlor in the sky awaits inside the Winter Room, a Veuve Clicquot wonderland of snow on the terrace of The Roof (tent and heated, of course). Inside, snowy branches bring a little of the outside in, with blankets and comfy pillows inviting visitors to lounge with a hot cocktail and warm bubble waffle. Up on the 29th floor, you'll have a picture-perfect view once Central Park is covered in snow. *Through March 2018, Viceroy Hotel, 124 W. 57th St.*

Raise a glass to friendship

Your favorite drinking buddies deserve more than just another round for the holidays. These booze-themed gift ideas will have them lit with gratitude. **EVA KIS**

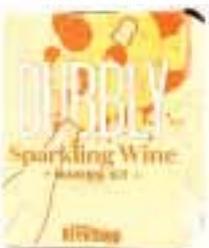


Dive Bar Shirt Club

Even home bartenders have their Cheers, and it's probably a dive bar. Celebrate the glory of the no-frills bar where you get exactly what you pay for with a membership to the Dive Bar Shirt Club, which sends you a shirt every month from one of the best in the U.S. \$23 per month, divebarsirtclub.com

Fantastical Fictive Beers Poster

Because if your friend is a beer nerd, they're probably a straight-up nerd, too. This comprehensive poster by Pop Chart Lab includes over 70 fictional beers from movies, TV and cartoons, from the all-ages Butterbeer in Harry Potter to Al Bundy's Girlie Girl. \$29 with framing options, popchartlab.com



Sparkling wine kit

Be ready for your New Year's Eve party with a bottle of your very own homemade sparkling wine. (Sorry, only the French get to call it Champagne.) Choose your sweetness from cava to brut; each kit makes 1 gallon. \$70, brooklynbrewshop.com

Regency double old fashioned glasses

Harking to more elegant times, these jewel-toned Regency tumblers are perfectly on-theme for the holidays (don't they look like ornaments?) and perfectly retro the rest of the year. Goblets, wine glasses and a decanter are also available. \$55.96 (set of four), williams-sonoma.com



Golden Girls coasters

Every record-setting old-timer seems to have some kind of boozy ritual — the Queen of England drinks three cocktails a day, and you know she'll never die! Living well is the key to living long enough to retire in Florida, so enjoy your drinks on these hand-painted walnut wood coasters made in Brooklyn. \$35 (set of four), urbancricketnyc.com

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Ski deals around New England you have to check out this winter

Save a few bucks before hitting the slopes.

ERIC WILBUR
@GlobeEricWilbur
letters@metro.us

Whether you're looking to take advantage of the snow that might be headed our way this weekend or just seeking out an enticing sticking stuffer for the skier or rider in your family, there are plenty of early-season deals to check out as the holidays approach.

Here are a few ski deals you should look into this winter.

Wachusett Mountain
Through Dec. 18, Wachusett Mountain is offering a sale on its

three-day lift cards, \$135.15 adults, \$118.15 juniors (normally \$159 and \$139, respectively). There's also a \$30 savings on three-day learn-to-ski packages at \$169.15 (ages 6 and up). New this season for pass holders at Wachusett is the ability to ski Stratton Mountain Resort in Vermont with 50 percent savings on lift tickets midweek, 25 on weekends and holidays. wachusett.com

Nashoba Valley
Nashoba Valley has yet to announce its opening date for the 2017-18 season, but for every \$50 you currently purchase in gift cards to the Westford ski area, you'll receive an additional \$10 tacked

on. Thus, a \$50 gift card becomes a \$60 gift card, a \$100 gift card a \$120 gift card, etc. skinashoba.com

Mount Snow
Mount Snow Resort will celebrate its annual Founders Day on Dec. 12 with lift tickets going for only \$12. There will even be free cake to celebrate the resort's birthday at 3 p.m. to boot. Buy tickets online now before they disappear. mountsnow.com/events/calendar/founders-day

Black Mountain and Cran-

more Mountain
Similar to what visitors can experience at nearby Story Land during

Cranmore Mountain Resort both offer perks for latecomers upon arrival. Ski free after 2 p.m. on days when you purchase a lift ticket for the following day. Think of it as good

way to beat an anticipated powder day, with a little extra to enjoy. Offer valid seven days a week. blackmt.com, cranmore.com

Cannon Mountain
New Hampshire's Cannon Mountain will, once again, offer 2-for-1 skiing prices on Tuesdays and Thursdays this winter (two for \$77 or one for \$52). Purchase a 10-pack of anytime lift tickets for \$669, more than \$100

off the normal cost. cannonmt.com

King Pine
Ski Tuesday nights at King Pine in Madison, New Hampshire, for only \$10 (4-9 p.m.), along with \$10 tubing and a \$10 burger and beer deal with a valid lift ticket. kingpine.com

Sunday River Mountain
Time is ticking on this one, so skiing enthusiasts need to hurry if they want to score this deal. Sunday River Mountain Resort has its Kickstarter Pass available for \$159 (\$129 ages 13-18, \$99 ages 6-12). Only available through Dec. 10, it's valid at the lifts every day until Dec. 24. sundayriver.com

Tips to keep in mind prior to hitting the slopes

- Get in shape. Don't try to ski yourself into shape.
- Obtain proper equipment. Be sure to have your ski or snowboard bindings adjusted correctly at a local ski shop. You can rent good ski or snowboarding equipment at resorts.
- When buying skiwear, look for fabric that is water- and wind-resistant. Look for wind flaps to shield zippers, snug cuffs at wrists and ankles, collars that can be snuggled up to the chin and drawstrings that can be adjusted for comfort and keep wind out. Be sure to buy quality clothing and products.
- Dress in layers. Layering allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature. For example, dress in polypropylene



underwear (top and bottoms), which feels good next to the skin, dries quickly, absorbs sweat and keeps you warm. Wear a turtleneck, sweater and jacket.

- Be prepared. Mother Nature has a mind of her own. Bring a headband or hat with you to the slopes, 60 percent of heat-loss is through the head. Wear gloves or mittens (mittens are usually better for those susceptible to cold hands).
- Wear sun protection. The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger than you think, even on cloudy days!
- Always wear eye protection. Have sunglasses and goggles with you. Skiing and snowboarding are a lot more fun when you can see.

Source: National Ski Areas Association

GRAPHIC BY BILLY BECERRA METRO

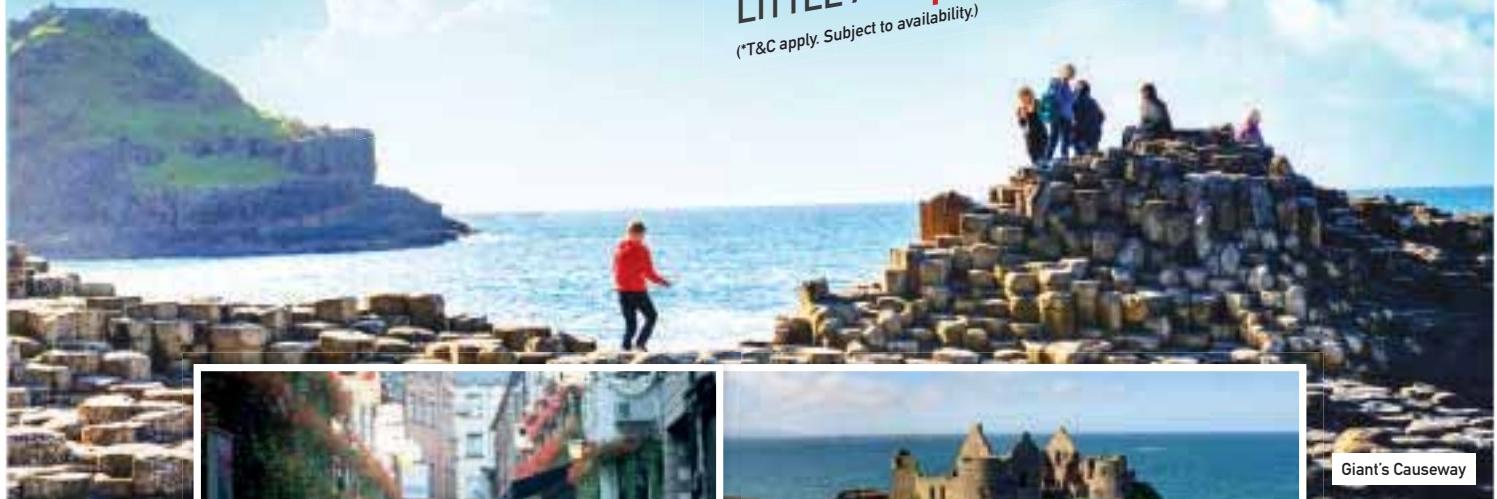
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Belfast's Cathedral Quarter

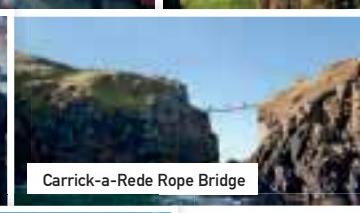


Dunluce Castle

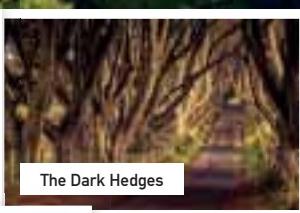
Giant's Causeway



St. George's Market in Belfast



Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge



The Dark Hedges



Titanic Belfast



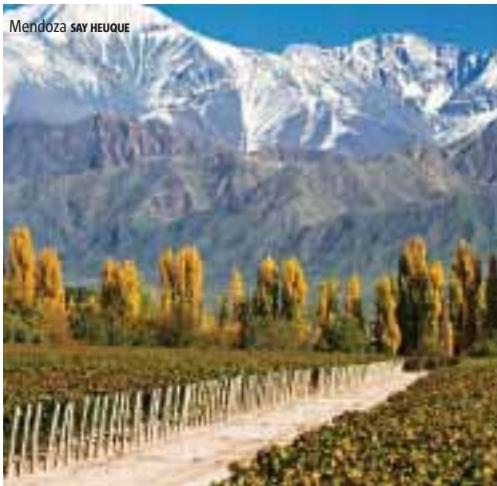
Belfast Castle

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See wine country by bike

Pedal your way through gorgeous scenery on one of these wine-centric cycling trips.

Fodor's Travel

Burgundy

Few know wine better than the French, and Burgundy is one of the country's leading regions for oenophiles. Partake in DuVine's four-day Sommelier on Wheels tour, led by award-winning master sommelier Carlton McCoy. Highlights include cycling the Route des Grands Crus among Burgundy's most esteemed vineyards, private tastings, and Michelin-starred cuisine, including a final

dinner at 1243 Bourgogne Society, the world's most exclusive members-only wine club.

Italy's Piedmont region may be revered for its wine, cheese and truffles, but its striking landscapes make it a dream to discover by bicycle. Treat yourself to VBT's 10-day tour through the area's hilltop villages dotted with verdant vineyards and ancient castles.

Along the winding roads, you'll learn about Italian grape production, sip on Spumante, tour a grappa distillery and join a truffle hunt.

Mendoza

Steak, tango and fútbol are three things Argentines do well, but their wine is one of the country's crown jewels. The province of Mendoza produces some of the finest varietals in South America, thanks to a

combination of idyllic weather, soil composition, and extreme elevation. To experience Mendoza's most prestigious wineries, consider Say Hueque's three-day experience, where you will pedal along the foothills of the magnificent Andes Mountains and sip on signature blends such as Malbec and Cabernet.

Ouébec

As any Francophile knows, Québec is the Canadian cultural hub where old and new converge in effortless harmony. Join Butterfield & Robinson's private six-day itinerary that begins in cosmopolitan Montréal and culminates in charismatic Québec City. You'll cycle through woodland paths, on cobblestone streets, alongside sparkling lakes, and past local treasures such as historic chapels, ancestral manors, and enchanting antique shops.

A photograph showing a man and a woman riding bicycles on a paved road. They are from behind, wearing helmets and athletic gear. The road is lined with rows of grapevines on both sides, and there are trees further back. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a day trip or a casual ride through the wine country.

Sonoma Valley
WINE COUNTRY BIKES

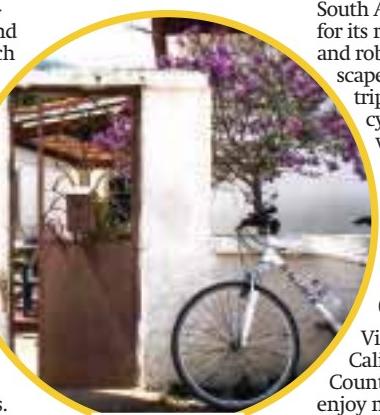
Australia's Clare Valley at your own pace with a three-day, self-guided cycling adventure with Tour de Vines. The Riesling Rail Trail is a favorite, thanks to its charming cellars, rolling estates, and relatively level trails.

Khao Yai

When you think of Thailand, chances are wine tourism isn't among the first things that come to mind. However, hidden just two hours north of Bangkok, visitors will be delighted to find Asoke Valley. The little-known Khao Yai countryside is building a reputation as one of Asia's top up-and-coming wine regions. Speckled with elaborate Buddhist temples and

Casablanca Valley

Chileans have been producing wine since the 1550s, and the Casablanca Valley has quickly established a foothold as one of the top wine regions in South America, renowned for its refreshing whites and robust reds. In-



Peloponneso TRAVELCYCLE

Sonoma County

Visitors flock to California's Sonoma County year-round to enjoy miles of rugged Pacific coastline, expansive wood forests, and a premium culinary scene. With more than 425 wineries, it also provides a perfect weekend getaway for wine-lovers. Enjoy contemporary luxury with this three-night Port Escape package from Wine Country Bikes. On Wine Country Bikes, a casual course that starts through the rolling hills of Dry Creek Valley with a diverse range of vineyards.

luxuriant vineyards, the area produces a surprising selection of wines. Experience it firsthand with this two-day cycling tour, including three winey visits and unforgettable landscapes.

Empordà

The Empordà region of Catalonia, Spain is a spectacular (albeit under-

Does Belmont belong to Isles?

The Islanders might have locked up the site of their new home.

 JOE PANTORNO
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It sounds as though the chances are looking good for the New York Islanders to obtain a new, permanent, hockey-first home.

A report by Mark Berner of HorseRacingInsider.com on Tuesday night revealed that Empire State Development "is ever closer" to awarding the Islanders and Oak View Group the bid to build a new arena on the land of Belmont Park in Elmont, NY.

Originally, three groups submitted proposals to build at the site on the Sept. 28 deadline handed down by New York State. Blumenfeld Development Group backed out on Tuesday, narrowing it down to the Islanders and New York City Football Club of Major League Soccer.

While NYCFC has considered looking at other sites, Islanders ownership has been made it abundantly clear that it's Belmont or bust.

"We have no Plan B," Islanders co-owner Jon Ledecky told reporters on Sunday. "And we haven't even thought about one."

Should the Islanders

not get this bid, it could be time to panic. The organization is expected to leave the Barclays Center in Brooklyn after the 2018-19 season, though they must strike a deal to prematurely end the 25-year lease by Jan. 30. The deadline for negotiations ends on Jan. 1, meaning the Islanders have to find out about Belmont sooner rather than later.

The relationship between the franchise and venue has been anything but fruitful.

Numerous obstructed-view seats, an off-center scoreboard and inconsistent ice conditions have made it difficult for fans to consider the Barclays home. Given that most of the fanbase still resides on Long Island, it was also a big ask to get them onto trains every game night and get them out to Brooklyn.

Those are just some of the reasons why the Islanders rank deadlast in the NHL in home attendance, averaging a shameful 11,685 fans per game. That's filling just 73.5 percent of the building.

Belmont Park is just 7 miles down Hempstead Turnpike from the Islanders' first home, the Nassau Coliseum, and will be far more accessible to a bulk of the team's fans. However, a 2,000-car parking lot in the proposed plans won't sit



well with many who wish to tailgate like they did at the Coliseum. Granted, there is a train station on the grounds that will give fans easy access to the building and help control traffic around the area.

Fans might not mind taking the train to an arena built for hockey considering the venue is expected to hold 16,500 unobstructed seats for hockey. The Barclays Center holds 15,795 for NHL games, but there are countless sections that do not offer a full view of the ice, driving that number significantly down.

Per Berner, the Islanders would want to break ground on the new arena next spring should they win the bid.

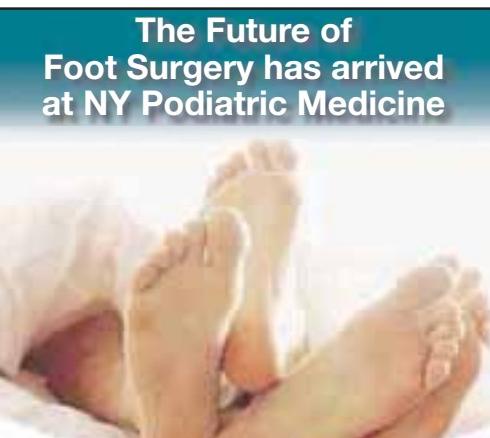


The Islanders could move to much greener pastures after a tough few years at the Barclays Center. GETTY IMAGES



This could be what the New York Islanders' plans for the 43 acres at Belmont Park in Elmont, NY look like, according to Berner. MARK BERNER

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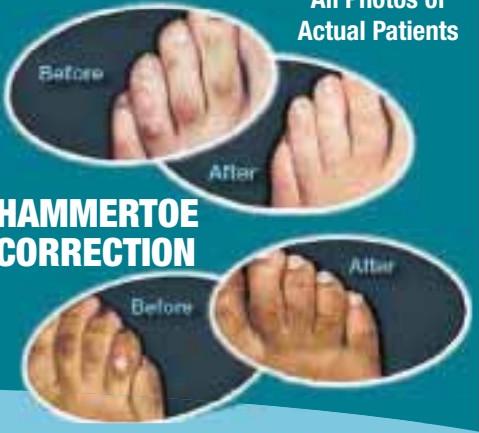
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Yanks introduce Boone

The 44-year-old met the New York media on Wednesday afternoon at Yankee Stadium.



JOE PANTORNO
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joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The New York Yankees officially introduced Aaron Boone as their newest manager on Wednesday afternoon from Yankee Stadium.

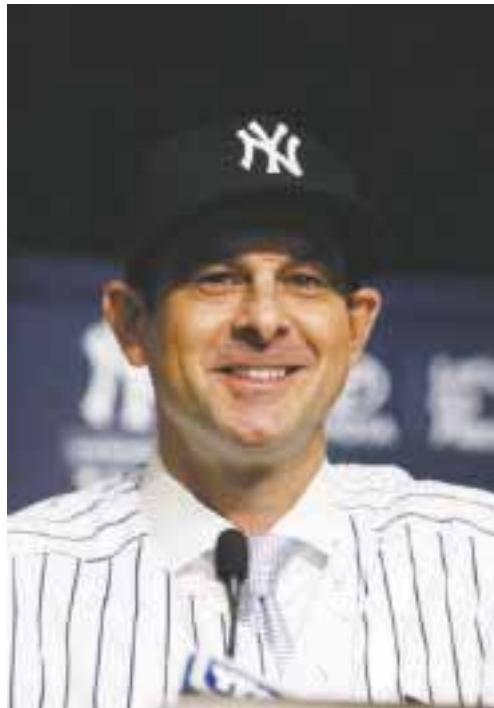
The 44-year-old becomes the 33rd manager in franchise history and just the third since 1996, following Joe Torre and Joe Girardi.

"This is a special, special day for me and my family," Boone said. "It means the world to me and feels like the chance of a lifetime."

He was chosen from six candidates, including former MLB manager Eric Wedge and longtime Yankees coach Rob Thomson.

"We are very proud of the fact that we're going to introduce someone who we think is going to be a great asset to this franchise," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "We were extremely impressed with Aaron Boone. We're all in."

The Yankees are "all



Yankees manager Aaron Boone met with the media on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

in" despite Boone having no managerial experience after spending the past eight seasons as an analyst for ESPN, a job he took up immediately after retiring from a 12-year playing career. Though it's not really phasing him.

"There's obviously some things that I'm going to be green at and will have to get my feet wet ...

comes from a great place and from someone that they can trust," Boone said. "I think, as a manager, I'll be someone who isn't chasing after wins every day. I want to get locked into the process and by doing that, I think we have the chance to get the best out of our players ... success ... will follow when you're getting the most out of your guys."

Though, Boone was quick to say that this is a team "chasing championships."

World Series titles are a feasible target for this Yankees club, who came within a game of winning the American League pennant before bowing out to the eventual champion Houston Astros.

With a bevy of young stars like Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and Luis Severino, the cornerstones of a competitive franchise are already in place. Boone is ready to help them get to the next level of success.

"This is a team with loads of talent," he said. "This is a team that in many ways came of age this year and arrived and I am really comfortable and believe that me and my staff will play a part in helping them take the next step."

While he's about to enter the lion's den that is the New York media while coaching one of the most recognizable teams in the world, he's not feeling the pressure yet.

"I understand the expectations," he said. "I hope those expectations are ramped up each and every year. That's part of it. That's part of being here."

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Wednesday January 10, 2018
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5th floor on a petition for 250
East 85th Street Food Corp. to
establish, maintain, and operate
an enclosed sidewalk cafe at 250
East 85th Street in the Borough of
Manhattan for a term of two years.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial # 1306574 for
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the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine
at retail in Restaurant under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at
552 Henry St., Brooklyn, NY 11231,
for on-premise consumption. New
Koto Sushi at Carroll Garden Inc.
d/b/a Koto Sushi & Steak

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1305824,
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|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
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Across

- 1 Chatter
- 4 Sink unclogger
- 9 -- Jessica Parker
- 14 Yes, to Yvette
- 15 OPEC vessel
- 16 Usual weather
- 17 Airport code for O'Hare
- 18 Brew tea
- 19 Aluminum company
- 20 Evening gala
- 22 Most sacred
- 24 Osprey relatives
- 25 Jolted
- 27 Slumps
- 28 Planets' companions
- 29 Tax experts
- 33 Investigates
- 35 Champagne glass
- 36 Salad ingredients
- 39 Sure! (2 wds.)
- 40 DEA agents
- 41 Emulates
- 44 Impudent
- 45 Travel choice
- 46 March 15, in Rome
- 50 Natural
- 52 Competition
- 53 The soul of wit
- 56 Pompeii art
- 57 007's watch
- 58 Golfer Lorena --
- 61 Wham!

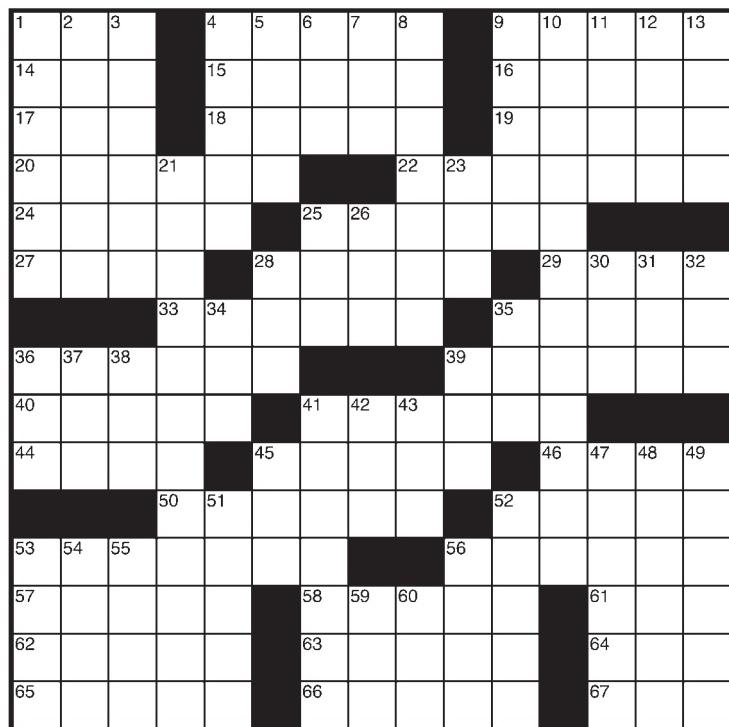
Down

- 1 Tickles
- 2 Dawn goddess
- 3 -- one's time
- 4 Rx amounts
- 5 Formal observance
- 6 Frothy brew
- 7 Born as
- 8 Foundlings
- 9 Weighing machine
- 10 Comprehensive (hyph.)
- 11 Kind of pudding
- 12 Writer - Oz
- 13 Warmth
- 21 Singly in the order
- 62 Church part
- 63 Verb preceders
- 64 Iron source
- 65 Puts down the dragon
- 66 Nobel or Garbo
- 67 Koppel or Knight

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mentioned
23 Authorizes
25 Show distress
26 Garden tool
28 Nov. and Feb.
30 Place for a pint
31 Wolfed down
32 Solidified
34 Med. personnel
35 Opposing force
36 Greenspan stat
37 "The Facts of Life" star
38 Use poor judgment
39 Feminine principle
41 Coloring sticks
42 Feedbag tidbit
43 Apple goody
45 Cable channel
47 Tyrant
48 Audience's cry
49 Warehoused
51 Turns down
52 Delete a file
53 Bikini tops
54 Stir up
55 Designer -- Schiaparelli
56 Cherished
59 Intimidate
60 Gradation of color

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easy

3		7			6			9
6			4		7			
8	9				3			
			5			3	7	
1		8			5			6
	7	3			8			
		9				5	1	
		7		5				4
9		1			2			7

hard

		1	3	6	2			9
				4	2	7		
	2	7						1
					5	4		
4			2	5	6			7
	5	3						
9					5	7		
	7	5	4					
2			6	7	9	3		

metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Trust in yourself and your ideas if you want to move forward with your long-term plans. Your knowledge and intelligence will help you win any debate you face.



Taurus An emotional situation based on half-truths will leave you in a quandary. Look for unusual ways to compensate someone being left out or hurt by what's transpired.



Gemini A business or personal relationship will take an upward turn. Discuss your thoughts and you will be able to iron out any difference and set your plans in motion.



Cancer A business trip or educational pursuit will help you decide what direction you should pursue. Follow your dreams and let your heart be your guide.



Leo Attend networking functions or work-related festivities that will give you a chance to show off what you have to offer. Your intelligence and confidence will not go unnoticed.



Virgo An investment, bonus or gift will come from an unexpected source. Visitors or changes to your living arrangements will make life complicated.



Libra Pay more attention to the way you look and feel. An update or makeover will lift your spirits and help you prepare for the upcoming festivities. Romance is highlighted.



Scorpio Offer peace and love instead of over-reacting to someone's story that may or may not be true. Be patient, listen and observe in order to avoid a mishap.



Sagittarius A personal investment will pay off. Celebrate your good fortune with someone you love. An emotional promise will lead to benefits and a positive change in lifestyle.



Capricorn Showing empathy and offering suggestions should be the extent of the help you offer a person or cause if you want to avoid being taken advantage.



Aquarius Keep your life simple and your emotions controlled. Don't be tempted to get involved in someone else's plans, especially if it will cost you.



Pisces Don't take chances when it comes to how you earn your keep. Be straight about what you can offer, and work hard to build a good rapport with your affiliates. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

UNCLE	PIEAT	ETCH
CELEB	AYLA	MORE
LEAVE	HEIR	ERIE
ARDENT	DÉPARTED	
LEIA	NAGGED	
SNEEZED	POE	
WILDE	ABLE	SASH
AKA	REPAIRS	CUE
GENE	STAG	YEMEN
ALS	HARNESS	
STREAK	TAIL	
PARLEYED	ANALOG	
OLEO	IBIS	GROWL
SLAB	SAGA	AGILE
HYDE	TBSP	SENSE

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